

REMARKS

I. GENERAL

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 14-16, 19 and 20 have been amended to provide these claims in better form for consideration, and not for any reason relating to patentability that would require further consideration by the Examiner or the performance of another search. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to remove a minor informality therefrom. In addition, claims 2-5, 8-10, 14-16, 19 and 20 have been amended as per the suggestion of the Examiner in the December 30, 2003, Final Office Action. The status identifiers, underlines and strikethroughs conform with the Examiner's comments of November 16 and 30, 2004.

As this Amendment is being filed together with the Amended Appeal Brief, entry of the above amendments to the claims is respectfully requested prior to the consideration of the appeal by the Board of Appeals and Interferences.

[AP32438 – 070121.0425]
PATENT

Prompt consideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 16, 2004

By: 

David Loretto
Reg. No. 44,374, for;

Gary M. Butter
Reg. No. 33,841

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza, 44th floor
New York, New York 10112-0228
(212) 408-2500